

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 12A, 12B, and 13. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which include Figures 12A, 12B, and 13, replace the original sheets including Figures 12A, 12B, and 13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 are now pending in the application. Claims 6 and 7 are amended herein. Claims 1-5 and 10-14 are cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. In particular, the Examiner states that Figures 12A, 12B, and 13 should be labeled as "Prior Art." Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheets," Figures 12A, 12B, and 13 have been labeled as "Prior Art." Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kolb et al. (Publication No. U.S. 2004/0001921 A1). Claims 2-5 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolb et al. in view of Murakami et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,883,895). Claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolb et al. in view of Furusawa (U.S. Pat. No. 6,734,029).

Claims 1-5 and 10-14 are cancelled herein. Applicant, therefore, submits that these rejections have been rendered moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended each of claims 6-7 to include the subject matter of original claim 1. By these amendments, claims 6-7 are in independent form and should be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 8-9 depend on claim 7 and, therefore, for at least the same reasons, should also be in condition for allowance.

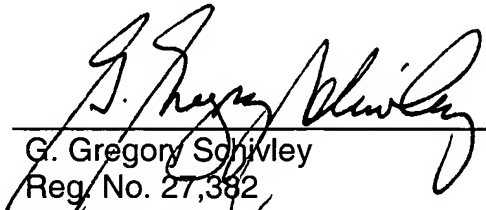
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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